

Fuchs receives 2009 Shepard Award

Dr. Michael A. Fuchs was the unanimous choice of the MSO as the 2009 recipient of the Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award.



Mike, a native of Hastings, Minnesota, received a BA in Natural Sciences in 1971 from St. John's University, a DDS degree from the University of Minnesota in 1974 and completed his orthodontic residency at the University of Minnesota in 1976. While in dental school, he received the Allan T.H. Bluhm Memorial Award for character, leadership and scholarship in 1973 and the Alpha Omega Scholarship Award for being the top graduate in 1974.

Since 1976 Dr. Fuchs has practiced orthodontics in Huron, South Dakota. From 1980 to 2003 he had a satellite office in Chamberlain, South Dakota, and in January 2002 he established a full-service office in Mitchell, South Dakota.

In 1971 Mike married his high school sweetheart, Mary. Their family includes son Ryan and his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Camdyn; son Dr. Rick, Mike's orthodontic partner, and daughter AnnMarie and her husband, Adam Campbell. During the 1980's, Mike and Mary opened their home to 48 foster children.

Dr. Fuchs' community service began in 1977. He has served on many local boards and committees such as the Huron Board of Education (nine years), Huron Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors of Greater Huron Development Corporation, Huron Hockey Association Board of Directors, Huron Little League Board of Directors and the operating committee of the Huron Hotel and Convention Center. He also served on the Huron High School Parent Advisory Board (10 years), coached Little League and Teener baseball for many years and coached youth hockey for eight years. In 2003 he was appointed by the mayor to chair the building committee for Huron's new event center.

Dr. Fuchs has been recognized for his many community contributions. In 1985 he was named Huron's Outstanding Young Citizen by the Jaycees. In 1999 he received the Friends of Little League award; in 2000 he received the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Business; and in 2004 he received the Service to Mankind Award from the Huron Sertoma Clubs.

Mike's South Dakota dental contributions also began in 1977. He served as his dental district's president, was a six-year member of the South Dakota Dental Association Board of Trustees and then continued through the officer chairs to be the 1996-1997 South Dakota Dental Association president. In 1989 he was appointed by the Governor to the State Board of Dentistry. He has been a member of the South Dakota Dental Foundation Board of Directors for many years and currently serves as its chairman. Dr. Fuchs has been recognized for this work with a South Dakota Dental President's citation, the 1998 South Dakota Dental Association's Humanitarian Service Award and its 2001 Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Fuchs has served the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists as general arrangements chair for the 1993 Annual Session and was a member of the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists Board of Directors from 1986-1995. This included going through the officer chairs and serving as the 1994-1995 president of the MSO. He has represented the MSO as a delegate or alternate delegate to the American Association of Orthodontists House of Delegates for more than 10 years. He also has represented the MSO on the AAO Council on Orthodontic Health Care and the AAO Council on Insurance and currently serves on the AAO Services Inc. Board of Directors (the for-profit arm of the AAO). He is a charter member of the AAO Foundation and currently serves on its Keystone Society Planned Giving Committee.

Dr. Fuchs is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Dental Society, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the International College of Dentists, the South Dakota Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists and the American Association of Orthodontists.

With his family time, Dr. Fuchs hunts on his pheasant farm in South Dakota, fishes at his lake home in northern Minnesota and on the Missouri River in South Dakota, road bikes and water skis in the summer and cross-country skis in the winter.

Congratulations, Mike, for all that you have accomplished and for making the world we live in a better place.